

February 2009

—VOL. 4 NO. 2—



## When snow and ice stranded thousands, Department personnel responded



Becky Littleton and Darvin Chesser gave food and water to a Hickman County resident.  
*Doug Detherage photo*

Just a few weeks ago, the thought of delivering everyday essentials – food and water – to stranded Hickman County residents wasn't a likely event for Conservation officer Doug Detherage, who usually works in central Kentucky's Shelby County.

But last weekend, he and fellow Third District officer Darvin Chesser found themselves eagerly welcomed by an elderly lady living at the end of a long rural lane in

the Mississippi river county whose car was immobilized by a tree that fell across it.

"We were knocking on doors and doing welfare checks and a guy told us she lived on down the lane and he was concerned about her," said Detherage. "We knocked on her door and she was totally out of food and almost out of water. We stocked her up with three good day's worth."

Similar recounts play out over and over among the approximately 200 department employees from all divisions who, when totals are finally tallied, likely amassed more than 10,000 man hours in helping those hit hardest by the recent ice, snow and freezing temperatures. Some left their own homes without power to go help others. Some spent up to two weeks helping in the state's western most counties.

See "Ice," page 3

### A personal message from Commissioner Gassett to all who worked with the disaster relief efforts:

I want to thank you personally for all your help, assistance, time, and hard work during the past couple of weeks. Whether you were knocking on doors, giving out food and water, cutting up downed trees and moving debris, helping in the EOC offices, or coordinating volunteers, your willingness to help is a direct reflection of the professionals we have in this agency. You never fail to respond when I ask you for help and for that I am grateful.

INSIDE:



**5** Three new captains



**6** War on hydrilla



**7** Bear season

## WE GET MAIL

### *Letters to the Commissioner's Office*

#### EXPO ABSENCE ADDRESSED

Louisville veterinarian Dr. Brett Hornback emailed the following inquiry to the department's Information Center. Commissioner Gassett asked that both Dr. Hornback's inquiry and his response appear in this month's Commissioner's Newsletter.

KDFWR,

I am a long-time hunter and fisherman of this wonderful Commonwealth and thus have supported the KDFWR as well. I took my 2 small boys with me over the weekend to the Jim Strader show which I have attended for many years and was disappointed that the KDFWR did not participate this year nor did I see any of the biologists that are normally present. I do not know the reason for your absence this year, but I wonder if it is because of the difference of opinion regarding Jim Strader himself on hot topics such as the flawed Telecheck system. I think that the difference of opinion opens dialect to help resolve situations or conflicts. If you did not attend for political reasons such as this, then I am very disappointed in your department. I am very disappointed that my 2 young sons who will hopefully be future responsible outdoorsmen did not get a chance to see and obtain all of the wonderful information that you normally supply nor get to meet any fish and game officials. There were thousands of kids at this annual event that you missed out on contacting and showcasing what the outdoor Commonwealth has to offer. It should be mandatory that the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife never miss opportunities like this to communicate to the youth which will eventually support you especially when the booth space is FREE! It is a shame that the Indiana DNR was there and not the KDFWR.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Brett Hornback

*Dear Dr. Hornback,*

*Your note regarding KDFWR's absence at the Jim Strader show caught my attention. Your perceptions are understandable, but also indicate a distinct degree of misinformation.*

*For many years, this department was an active and frequent participant on Mr. Strader's radio show and his annual hunting and fishing expo. The commissioner, as well as division directors, conservation officers, wildlife and fisheries biologists, and others routinely discussed topics on his show both at his request and ours. Indeed, we worked together toward common goals.*

*Recently Mr. Strader publicly maligned hard-working department professionals. He questioned their integrity by accusing them of fabricating deer kill data in defense of Telecheck, the most efficient and accurate hunter data collection system in department history.*

*This department's employees are as skilled, experienced and passionate about hunting and fishing as Mr. Strader. In fact, it is precisely those traits that fueled their fascinations far beyond simple wildlife recreation. They made managing wildlife and fish their life's work. They earned Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate degrees, and today are recognized among the best resource professionals anywhere. Their extensive study qualifies them to collect and interpret data, and make recommendations that protect and conserve the resources we all hold dear. Their abilities are possibly best evidenced by their extraordinary white-tailed deer, wild turkey and elk herd restoration successes.*

*In light of these baseless personal attacks, I chose not to ask some of the nation's preeminent wildlife professionals to support Mr. Strader's radio show or his expo. These good people will continue to channel their considerable talents and efforts toward the department's statutory mandates of protecting and conserving the wildlife of the Commonwealth, and insuring a permanent and*

*continued supply of wildlife resources for sport and recreation for the residents of this state.*

*In regards to our communication efforts, I would like to point out that we frequently communicate with our customers. Department personnel actively participate in about two dozen major shows throughout Kentucky and in other states each year. We teach conservation education in Kentucky classrooms and reach 85,000 5th and 6th graders each month. We operate three conservation camps throughout the summer months. We participate with conservation organizations such as the League of Kentucky Sportsmen, National Archery in the Schools Program, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, Quail Unlimited, BASS, Trout Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, and many more. Kentucky Afield Television is broadcast twice each week on KET as well as commercially in Hazard and Paducah. Kentucky Afield Radio also airs weekly, and Kentucky Afield magazine goes out quarterly. Additionally, our customer information center staff personally answer more than 140,000 customer inquiries each year.*

*Thank you for your thoughts and comments. Our professionals will continue their superb work at managing Kentucky's wildlife and leave growing Mr. Strader's radio show ratings to others.*

*Sincerely,  
Dr. Jon Gassett  
Commissioner*

#### ARCHERY IS FOR EVERYONE

A letter from Boyd County:

The NASP Archery Program is a wonderful sport that has really taken off. The enthusiasm for shooting is tremendous from students as well as adults. Almost every state in the United States is

**See "Letters," page 4**



## “Ice,” continued

Official estimates listed 769,000 Kentuckians without electrical power, many for two weeks or more, when freezing rain and snow blasted the full length of the Commonwealth, Tuesday, January 27, snapping trees, downing power lines and leaving many roads impassable.

A release from Gov. Beshear’s office placed 49,755 Kentucky customers still without power earlier this week.

More than 2 million bottles of water and 1 million meals were distributed by emergency responders.

U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano Tuesday toured the state with Gov. Beshear to survey damage. Kentucky officials attributed 33 deaths to the storm. President Obama issued a major disaster declaration for the state.

Most accounts place the devastation at its worst in west Kentucky, but Gov. Beshear declared a state of emergency in 101 of Kentucky’s 120 counties.

The call went out for help and department personnel responded with 4-wheel drive vehicles, chainsaws, ATVs, and law enforcement support. Daily checks on another resident requiring daily dialysis



Fisheries Division employees David Baker, Ryan Oster, Andy Mowrey, Nate Richards and Dave Dreves helped clear roads in Ballard County. *Doug Henley photo*

and a special needs child also were part of Detherage’s role.

“People were desperate for food and water,” said Detherage, who spent six days in the western county. “The last day we

were there we gave out three big trailer loads. We stayed busy – really busy – the whole time we were there. We’d come out about 6 a.m. and not get back in until 10 or 11 at night.”



Wildlife Division’s Jason Nally and Chris Grasch (left photo) used chainsaws to clear a section of Ballard County roadway while others in Department vehicles stopped traffic last week. At right, Gabe Jenkins and Grasch worked to clear the main loop at Ballard Wildlife Management Area. *Brian Clark photos*

## "Letters," continued

represented at the national tournament including Canada and Australia. New Zealand and South Africa have started teams in their countries. The NASP program has truly become an international movement.

It is easy to see how exciting the NASP program is for students. Shooters get to compete as a team, but it is also about competing against one's self. A shooter always wants to beat their best score. Sometimes, a shooter experiences a personal difficulty in which he has to overcome.

Adam Cornette is a seventh grader at Boyd County Middle School. He competes in the archery program. He uses a chair to sit in while shooting.



A specially constructed chair allows Adam to compete in 3-D tournaments. *Photo submitted*

Adam has a disease called LCHAD, Long- Chain Three Hydroxyacyl Acryl-Coenzyme Dehydrogenase Disorder. This disorder does not enable Adam's body to convert stored fat into energy. Adam's body can break down muscle mass to use as energy. This process is called Rhabdomyolysis and it is very painful and harmful to the muscles and kidneys. There are many triggers that can start this process, exercise and physical

activity being the main ones.

Like all children Adam wants to fit in with the rest of the children. He does very well on the archery team. Sitting while shooting the targets works well at the sanctioned NASP tournaments, however this system does not lend itself to another part of the archery program, 3-D shooting.

The 3-D tournaments are outside and usually on rough terrain. Students will walk on a trail from target to target. These trails can be up and down hills, in the woods, and not in always ideal weather. The targets are designed to look like animals that a hunter would shoot in the wild. Adam could not use up the energy it would take to compete on a 3-D course. His brother enjoys competing in the 3-D shoots, but Adam's health did not allow him to compete.

Daryl Short, Chris Barrett BCMS archery coaches, Tim Black, and Jim Walker and the Boyd County Vocational students designed and built a chair pulled behind a four wheeler so that Adam can now compete in the 3-D competitions. Not only can Adam shoot with his brother, but he can now travel with the archery team to 3-D tournaments. Adam Cornette is now competing and is included in all the archery events. Archery is and should be for everyone. Adam has now proven this to be true.

—Daryl Short, Chris Barrett, Anita Smith  
Boyd County Middle School archery coaches

## OFFICER CRAIG HONORED



Conservation Officer Mick Craig was presented with the "Hunter Education Wildlife and Boating Officer of the Year Award" by the Kentucky Hunter Education Association at their annual banquet. With him is Hunter Training Officer George Mountjoy. *Tim Slone photo*

## Electronic boating accident report completed

**C**onservation Officer Rich Waite, who is assigned to the 9th District, and Ms. Marcelle Bryant, HQ Boating Safety Section, spent the past several months successfully collaborating on the development of an electronic boating accident report.

The new report complies with the United States Coast Guard requirements for boat accident reports and will allow our officers greater ease in completing their reports. The new report will also allow the division to electronically file the reports and move us forward toward the goal of becoming paperless.



## Law Enforcement Division names new captains in 3rd, 5th, 7th districts

**L**aw Enforcement Division acquired three new captains for the Third, Fifth and Seventh Districts effective January 16, 2009.

**Captain Myra Minton** is the Third District Captain and becomes the first female to ascend to that position. Captain Minton, a recent honors graduate of the Southern Police Institute's Administrative Officers Course, has a Bachelors Degree from Ohio Northern University and is an 11-year veteran of the LE Division. Captain Minton and her husband, Mike, reside in Bullitt County.

**Captain Frank Campbell** is the Seventh District Captain. Captain Campbell has a Masters Degree from the University of Kentucky and is a 14-year veteran of the LE Division. Captain Campbell and his wife, Debbie, reside in Letcher County.

**Captain Bobby Newman** is the



Left to right: Commissioner Jon Gasset, new captains Myra Minton, Frank Campbell and Bobby Newman, and Colonel Robert Milligan. *Mark Marraccini photo*

Fifth District Captain. Captain Newman has attended Lee's Junior College and Ashland Community College and is a 19-

year veteran of the LE Division. Captain Newman and his wife, Margie, reside in Grant County.

## Kentucky Afield TV – face'ing the future with facebook

By Charlie Baglan

**O**ver the last three years, Kentucky Afield TV has not only expanded to seven additional stations in three southern states, it is building a presence on the internet in all the right places. Facebook.com has surfaced as the fastest growing and most trusted social network. It's a fast lane for communications and a virtual one-stop-shop for finding old friends including old friends like us.

Facebook members can simply search "Kentucky Afield TV" to go behind the scenes with photos, bios, videos, past hosts of the show and more. With full programs and segments streaming on our FW and YouTube websites, facebook



helps close the gap by putting us where the world or better yet – our fans are looking.

"The concept is perfect," says executive producer Scott Moore. "Facebook liter-

ally puts a face on Kentucky hunting, fishing, and our department. Everybody knows Farmer, but we now have a means to put a face on our fans, see their interests and welcome dialog." Kentucky Afield TV's facebook fan base, in the first month of membership, numbers in the hundreds. This gives the show a statistically significant sample by which to better know and better serve the public.

Moore adds, "When folks become a Kentucky Afield TV fan on facebook, their friends also get the same opportunity. It starts a web of friends of friends jumping on board. You can, too."

To learn more without obligation, visit [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).



Hydrilla, an invasive submergent aquatic plant.

## Fisheries Division declares war on hydrilla in Dewey Lake

**D**istrict fisheries biologists will have a battle on their hands in the eastern fishery district.

The invasive aquatic plant Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) has been found in Dewey, Paintsville and Carr Creek lakes. Hydrilla is a nonnative aquatic plant, that can be highly detrimental to fish and wildlife through alteration of habitat and displacement of native aquatic plants.

Hydrilla is a fast growing plant that can have stalks up to 25 feet long. This plant has been shown to grow 1 inch per day and a single tuber can produce 6,000 new tubers per square meter.

Hydrilla forms thick mats that hinder boating, fishing and other recreational activities. The mats become so thick that they don't provide good habitat for larger fish.

In its early establishment, hydrilla may be considered by some to be good fishing habitat since it is somewhat sparse. However, over time the plants mats become so thick that they are unfishable and what was once productive

water becomes unusable.

One of the problems with hydrilla is the fact that it reproduces through regrowth of plant fragments. That means when a boat motor tears through the plant, all of the fragments settle to the bottom of the lake and start new plants. This can also be an issue when plant fragments are transported on boat motors and trailers from one lake to another.

Someone fishing at Dewey Lake may travel to another lake without hydrilla the next day. When they launch their boat the next day, the plant fragments are deposited in the new lake and may start a new

hydrilla colony.

Currently, the highest management priority is at Dewey Lake. Hydrilla has covered 206 acres of the lake, including many access areas and the Jenny Wiley State Park marina. The goal will be to keep the hydrilla at a manageable level since complete eradication is virtually impossible.

KDFWR will be working with the U.S. Army Corps. to come up with a plan to treat Dewey Lake. This plan will use a combination of aquatic herbicide application along with a low stocking rate of grass carp.

Ten acres of priority areas have been designated and they will be chemically treated 3 times per year. Along with the chemical treatment a total of 1030 grass carp will be stocked to feed on the hydrilla.

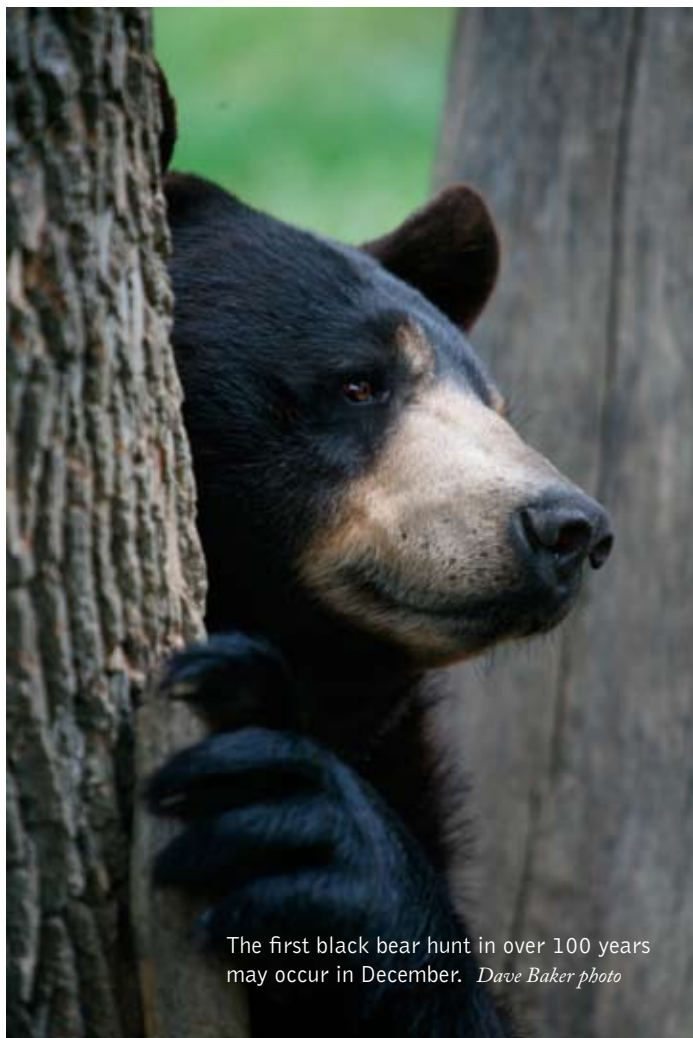
Management of the hydrilla by KDFWR fisheries staff will go a long way to maintain fishing, hunting and recreational opportunities at Dewey Lake. However, we will also need help from anglers, hunters and recreational boaters.

Signs will be posted at several lakes to inform the public of the dangers of transporting hydrilla between lakes. These signs will offer plant identification and boat/trailer cleaning tips. A better understanding of this invasive plant will help prevent its spread in Kentucky.



A dense colony of hydrilla completely covering the surface of the water. Dense colonies like this inhibit boating and recreational fishing opportunities, and do not provide ideal habitat for sport fish populations.





The first black bear hunt in over 100 years may occur in December. *Dave Baker photo*

## Kentucky on schedule for 2009 black bear season

December 19–20, depending on how many bears are harvested on the first day. There will be a quota of 10 bears, or 5 females, whichever is reached first.

The purchase of a \$30 black bear permit will be available only to Kentucky residents, and all bears must be Telechecked and taken to a department-operated check station immediately upon leaving the field.

All bear hunters will be required to call an automated telephone number by 9:00 pm after the first day of the hunt to learn whether the

tain Wildlife Management Area (HPM WMA) will be closed to all bear hunting and serve as a sanctuary for denning females.

On an additional 12,421 acres surrounding HPM WMA, bear hunting will be limited to landowners, their spouses, and dependent children hunting on their own property.

Minimizing hunting pressure in that area will protect critical denning habitat for females and greatly assist in our ongoing management efforts. Since 2006, 77% of all radiocollared female bears have denned on Pine Mountain.

The timing of this hunt is critical as ongoing tracking of radiocollared bears shows that most females enter dens during the first week in December. As such, the hunt will concentrate efforts on male bears.

The bear zone was identified based on a decade of population monitoring and research that indicates this area of the Pine, Cumberland, and Black Mountain region has the highest bear densities. Bear permits for the inaugural 2009 season will go on sale July 1.

In half a century Kentucky's white-tailed deer herd grew from 1,000 animals to a million. Wild turkeys increased from about 800 birds to a quarter-million, and we are home to 10,000 free-ranging elk, the largest elk population east of the Rocky Mountains.

As of January 13, Kentucky has come one step closer to adding a new big game species to that list as legislators approved KDFWR's proposal for its black bear hunt in over 100 years.

The final regulatory amendment is expected to be signed into law in early March, which will keep Kentucky on schedule for the 2009 bear season. Hunting will be allowed in Harlan, Letcher, and Pike counties and the season will occur

quota has been reached. If the quota is met on day one, then the season will be closed.

Baiting for bears and the use of hounds will be prohibited. The bag limit shall be one bear per person.

The League of Kentucky Sportsmen has been a proponent for a Kentucky black bear hunt for several years. League President Rick Allen recently testified before a legislative committee in support of creating the state's first bear season.

"The League was the catalyst for public support for the proposed bear season," commented Rick Allen. "We are very happy, as sportsmen and Kentuckians, to see this come to be."

The 6,000-acre Hensley-Pine Moun-

### Bear season notes:

- Bear hunting open only to Kentucky residents
- Season open Dec. 19–20, 2009
- Quota of 10 bears, or 5 female bears
- Harlan, Letcher, and Pike counties only
- Archery, crossbow, and firearms permitted
- Bag limit of one bear per hunter
- Illegal to take bears less than 75 pounds or females with cubs
- Use of bait and dogs shall be prohibited
- Bears must be telechecked and taken to a KDFWR check station

## FILO restoration of Buck Creek completed



New channel construction.  
*Andy Mowrey photos*

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resource's Wetland and Stream Mitigation Program, in partnership with the Nature Conservancy (the property owner) recently completed restoration on a section of an un-named tributary to Buck Creek, Upper Cumberland River Basin, in Pulaski County.

This project was part of a larger restoration effort on this tributary to Buck

Creek. Additionally, the work was a small part of a much larger stream and wetland restoration project occurring throughout the Buck Creek drainage.

The site was selected for a variety of reasons including the relocation of the historic channel, the amount of sediment being deposited into Buck Creek, and the added protection of federally endangered species of mussels in Buck Creek.

The KDFWR Stream and Wetland Mitigation trust paid for a portion of the restoration for this tributary while the remainder of the project will be undertaken with funding generated from a partnership among the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, The Nature Conservancy, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The project entailed enhancement of 850 feet of existing channel and construction of 395 feet of new channel being relocated back to the historic location in the middle of the valley floor.

Design for this project began in July 2006 and construction was completed in the spring 2009. Some of the key focus points for this project include a stable stream channel, reducing sediment entering Buck Creek, and an increase in habitat for aquatic insects, fish, and wildlife.

The project on Buck Creek, as well as other ongoing projects with the Stream and Wetland Mitigation Program will serve to enhance Kentucky's aquatic and wildlife resources with continued partnerships like this one.

For more information on this project or the FILO program, please contact Joseph Zimmerman or Andy Mowrey at 502-564-3400.



Constructed riffle.



Post-construction habitat.





## New brown trout strain evaluation slated for the Cumberland tailwater

**T**he Lake Cumberland tailwater trout fishery is the largest in Kentucky with 75.2 miles of suitable habitat available throughout the year. It receives the largest stocking allocation of all Kentucky tailwaters with 161,000 rainbow trout and 38,000 brown trout stocked annually.

The brown trout stocked into the Lake Cumberland tailwater represent more than 83 percent of all brown trout stocked annually in Kentucky. The rainbow trout fishery is managed as a put-grow-and-take fishery with a 15-20 inch protective slot limit.

This slot limit offers anglers the ability to harvest smaller size rainbow trout, yet maintain a quality fishery by protecting those rainbow trout that grow into the 15-20 inch slot limit.

The brown trout fishery is managed as a trophy fishery with a 20 inch minimum size limit and 1 fish daily creel limit.

All rainbow and brown trout stocked in the Lake Cumberland tailwater are reared at the Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery located below Wolf Creek Dam. This hatchery currently rears two different strains of brown trout that are stocked into the tailwater.

The Plymouth Rock strain is considered more “domesticated”, while the Sheep Creek

strain is considered more “wild.” Considerable research has been conducted that has evaluated characteristics and performance of different strains of stocked trout. This research has shown that some strains are easier to handle and exhibit faster growth or feed conversion than others.

Under hatchery conditions, some “wild” strains have been shown to exhibit a higher degree of thermal tolerance than more “domesticated” strains. However, strain characteristics and performance in a hatchery situation may not translate into the same performance after stocking, particularly in systems as dynamic as most Southeastern tailwaters, including the Lake Cumberland tailwater.

Research in Virginia documented significantly different rates of harvest for five rainbow trout strains stocked in put-and-take streams, while another study showed that “domesticated” strains of trout survived at lower rates than did “wild” strains in two Austrian streams.

Most importantly, a study in Michigan rivers documented that brown trout from wild broodstocks exhibited higher survival and growth rates than fish from two domestic strains.

Unfortunately, little information

currently exists about the performance of either the Plymouth Rock or Sheep Creek strains of brown trout being stocked into the Lake Cumberland tailwater. Since the brown trout fishery in the tailwater is managed as a trophy fishery, it is imperative that stocked brown trout grow rapidly and reach trophy size in as short a time period as possible, in order to meet angler expectations of this fishery.

An evaluation of the survival, growth, and susceptibility to angling of both these strains of brown trout is needed to fully optimize the stocking practices of brown trout in the Lake Cumberland tailwater.

Beginning in March 2009, brown trout from both strains will be uniquely marked to identify each strain following stocking into the Lake Cumberland tailwater. Monthly sampling of these strains will provide valuable information relating to survival, growth, and susceptibility to angling of both strains.

Ultimately, this data will help better direct the Department’s ongoing efforts to optimally manage brown trout as a trophy fishery in the Lake Cumberland tailwater.

For more information about this study, please contact Dave Dreves (Fisheries Research Biologist) at 502-564-3400 ext 4469.



## Rick Hill returns

Nationally acclaimed artist **Rick Hill** is back at work for the department. Hill, who retired from the department last year, returned as a part-time employee in January following a highly competitive round of interviews for the position.

Rick's legacy of painting covers for *Kentucky Afield* magazine will continue. He is now working on an image of a spotted (Kentucky) bass for the summer issue. Rick also will continue providing images for the popular Nature Notebook series in the magazine.

Collectors should note that for the first time in a decade, a limited edition print of Rick's artwork will be sold to employees and the public.

The department is fortunate to have an artist of Rick's talent on board. Please stop by the second floor studio of the Arnold Mitchell Building to welcome him back.

## First release of Hill's art in a decade

By John Morgan

**T**he Wildlife and Information and Education Divisions teamed up to create a long-overdue release of Rick Hill's art for public consumption.

Rick's last artwork available for sale was the Wild Turkey Habitat Series print in 1998. The new release is an image many of you have seen before – on a brochure, document cover, and a specialty license plate. You guessed it, the male and female bobwhite quail titled, "Heralds of Spring."

In typical Hill fashion, his attention to detail captures the splendor of the male and female bobwhite during the pair bonding process in Spring. You can almost hear the melodious "bob-white" whistle as the charismatic male charms the discretely plumed hen.

The print has a strong Kentucky flavor typified by the tobacco barn, rock wall, and flowering redbud. Rick also tied habitat to the work by highlighting a brushy fencerow and an old field around the barn. For splash of color, he slipped in a bellwort and the blackberry in bloom. All in all, this piece is worthy of adorning the wall of any wildlife enthusiasts home.

The Wildlife Division will be selling 400 of the 500 signed and numbered, lim-



ited-edition prints. They will be available online through the Department's website at the [Kentucky Afield Store](#). The cost will be \$35 plus shipping and handling.

However, for current Department employees and retirees, we are offering a discounted price of \$20!

If you'd liked to take advantage of the discounted price, please send a check payable to "KDFWR" to Headquarters. Note in the checks memo line "Quail Print" and include your name and mailing address on a piece of paper. To make arrangements to pick it up in person, please contact Naomi Wilson at extension 4549.

Don't wait, get yours today. We expect them to go fast!